

CLAIMS:

1. An implantable medical device, comprising
an elongated body including a lumen and an elongated member extending within the lumen;
a distal tip coupled to the body and including a canted passageway extending distally from the lumen of the body and an opening terminating the passageway and positioned in proximity to a distal end of the distal tip; and
a helical fixation element coupled to the elongated member and adapted to deflect along the canted passageway of the distal tip;
wherein the elongated member is adapted to move the helical element through the passageway of the distal tip and out the opening and to rotate the helical element thereby affixing the helical element into an implant site.
2. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element deflects by means of a flexible coupling with the elongated member.
3. The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a cable.
4. The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling comprises a spring.
5. The medical device of claim 2, wherein the flexible coupling is pre-formed to conform to a curvature of the canted passageway.
6. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element deflects by flexing along its length.

7. The medical device of claim 6, wherein the helical fixation element includes a pitch change facilitating the deflection along its length.
8. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element is pre-formed along its length to conform to a curvature of the canted passageway.
9. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a platinum-iridium alloy.
10. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a super-elastic metal.
11. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the helical fixation element comprises a synthetic resin.
12. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a conductor and the helical fixation element comprises an electrode.
13. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the body further includes an elongated conductor extending therein and the distal tip further includes an electrode coupled to the conductor.
14. The medical device of claim 13, wherein the electrode is positioned adjacent to and distal to the opening of the distal tip.
15. The medical device of claim 13, wherein the electrode is positioned adjacent to and proximal to the opening of the distal tip.

16. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal tip further includes an asymmetrical radial section facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site.
17. The medical device of claim 16, wherein the asymmetrical radial section is generally bell-shaped.
18. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the elongated body includes a curved distal portion in proximity to the coupling with the distal tip, the curved distal portion facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site.
19. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the distal tip further includes a radiopaque marker facilitating orientation of the opening of the distal tip toward the implant site via fluoroscopic visualization.
20. The medical device of claim 19, wherein the marker includes an indicator indicating whether the opening of the tip is directed generally toward or away from a plane coinciding with that of the implant site.
21. The medical device of claim 19, wherein the marker includes an indicator indicating a degree to which the opening is angled with respect to a plane coinciding with that of the implant site.
22. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the elongated member includes a fluid delivery lumen and the helical fixation member includes a fluid infusion lumen in fluid communication with the fluid delivery lumen in order that a desired fluid may be infused out from the opening of the distal tip.